

respectfully requested to reconsider the election of species requirement in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

The Examiner has set forth an election of species requirement with regard to Figures 4-12. The grouping of the Figures is set forth as follows:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Figures</u>
Group A	Figures 4-5
Group B	Figures 6-7
Group C	Figures 8-9
Group D	Figure 10
Group E	Figure 11
Group F	Figure 12

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Applicants have elected Group A (Figures 4-5), readable upon claims 1-5 for initial examination.

Because of the very close interrelationship between all of the species of the present application, and because of the potential expenses which might be required to file separate applications to cover the related species, it is believed that all of the species are properly examinable in a single application. However, in order to be responsive to the Examiner's election of species requirement, Group A (Figures 4-5), readable upon claims 1-5 has been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the election of species requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in the election of species requirement, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to claims 6-18 at a later date if they so desire.

Conclusion

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Mr. Joseph A. Kolasch, Registration No. 22,463 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By: 

Joseph A. Kolasch
Reg. No. 22,463

JAK/clb

P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000